

REMARKS

The Office Action and the cited and applied reference have been carefully reviewed. No claim is allowed. Claims 15-17, 22-24 and 27-29 presently appear in this application and define patentable subject matter warranting their allowance. Reconsideration and allowance are hereby respectfully solicited.

Claims 14, 18, 25, 16 and 30 withdrawn from consideration are cancelled without prejudice to refiling in a divisional application.

In order to perfect the claim to foreign priority of Japanese application 2002-8435 filed January 17, 2002, applicants plan to prepare and file a certified English translation thereof in the future.

The examiner indicates that the specification contains a typographical error on page 14, line 20. Applicants do not understand what typographical error the examiner is referring to. Line 20 on page 14 only reads "Group 6:". The colon is present to list the Groups 1-6, each of which are differentiated from the other by a semi-colon.

Claims 1, 6, 8 and 13 have been objected to. This objection is made moot by the cancellation of claims 1-13 without prejudice.

Claims 1-8, 10-13, 15-17 and 22-24 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 because the examiner states that the claimed

invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter. This rejection is believed to be obviated by the amendment to claim 15 and the cancellation of claims 1-13 without prejudice.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are therefore respectfully requested.

Claims 1-13, 15-17, 22-24 and 27-29 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. This rejection is obviated by the cancellation of claims 1-13 and the amendments to the claims.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are therefore respectfully requested.

Claims 1-13, 15-17, 22-23 and 27-29 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. This rejection is also believed to be obviated by the cancellation of claims 1-13 and the amendments to the claim. Claim 15 is now directed to identifying or screening for a potential candidate therapeutic agent. Support for the stringent hybridization conditions recited in amended claims 15 and 27 is found in the paragraph bridging pages 16 and 17 of the specification.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are therefore respectfully requested.

Claims 1-13, 15-17, 22-23 and 27-29 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, for lack of enablement.

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This rejection is obviated by the amendments to the claims and by the cancellation of claims 1-13. As amended, claim 15 is directed to identifying or screening for a potential candidate therapeutic agent.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are therefore respectfully requested.

Claims 1-5 and 8-13 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Song et al., *J. Biol. Chem.* 274:17063-17067 (1999). This rejection is obviated by the cancellation of claims 1-13 without prejudice.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are therefore respectfully requested.

In view of the above, the claims comply with 35 U.S.C. §112 and define patentable subject matter warranting their allowance. Favorable consideration and allowance are earnestly urged.

Respectfully submitted,
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